



CONNECTICUT AFL-CIO

56 Town Line Road, Rocky Hill, CT 06067

860-571-6191

fax: 860-571-6190

Testimony of Lori Pelletier, Secretary-Treasurer of the Connecticut AFLCIO before the Public Health Committee February 27, 2013

Senator Gerratana and Representative Johnson and members of the Public Health Committee, my name is Lori Pelletier and I am here on behalf of the Connecticut AFLCIO who represent 900 affiliated local unions across this State.

I am here to testify in favor of **HB 5732 An Act Requiring Licensed Nurse at Blood Drives**. It baffles me on why this legislation has to be proposed. Common sense says when we are asking people to voluntarily donate blood the donation would be done with the highest level of safety for the volunteer. But no, greed has gotten in the way of common sense, and this is an accident waiting to happen.

Union members are committed volunteers to blood drives. As a member of the Machinists union at Pratt our members regularly donated, and in 2001 after the World Trade Center collapsed hundreds of delegates attending our Connecticut AFLCIO convention lined up to donate at an emergency blood donation center at the hotel. We gladly partner with these blood drives because they are important and are life saving.

But blood has become big business and if bean counters are going to make safety and health decisions at these blood drives then we are shrugging off our responsibilities, and putting the community at risk.

Once again thank you for the opportunity by holding this public hearing.

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